

Caroline county two, Calvert county two, Cecil county three, Charles county two, Dorchester county three, Frederick county seven, Harford county three, Kent county two, Montgomery county two, Prince George's county three, Queen Anne's county two, St. Mary's county two, Somerset county three, Talbot county two, Washington five and Worcester county three. Provided, nevertheless, that each county and city shall be divided into separate election districts of compact, contiguous territory, in the manner hereafter to be provided in this Constitution; the qualified voters in each of which districts shall at the time and in the manner in which delegates are chosen, elect one delegate, who has for one year next before his election been a resident of the district from which he shall be elected, and the residence in a district requisite to give a right of suffrage, shall be six months next preceding the election; but in case any voter otherwise qualified shall have less than six months residence in the district of his then residence, he shall not thereby lose his right to vote in the district in which he may have resided for the six months next preceding his removal.

Mr. JOHNSON remarked that he voted to reconsider the proposition or amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington county now under consideration, and he might possibly vote for it on its final passage. If he did so, it would not be because he preferred the plan which the gentleman had laid down. He was free to confess that the basis which he was willing to vote for was in the fifth column of the printed schedule; which gave seventy-five members to the House of Delegates. The Constitution of Maryland, as it now stood, looked forward to future representation in populous counties; and under the present census Frederick county would be entitled to precisely the number of delegates which the plan of the gentleman, (Mr Harbine,) as modified by himself, would now afford her. His object now was to submit to the Convention whether it would not be well to consider the propriety of subdividing not only Baltimore city, but the large counties and the small counties in such manner as would place the larger by the side of the smaller, and make the larger counties but small ones. To take away from these large counties and the city of Baltimore the power of throwing one mass of delegates here, speaking one sentiment, breathing one atmosphere and having one unity of thought and action. His object, therefore, in offering this proposition, was not so much as to force a vote on the question now, because he saw a great many gentlemen were very anxious that they should make some progress, and that that should be upon the isolated subject of representation alone. He was, therefore, in doubt whether he was acting wisely and in accordance with the general sentiment of the Convention when he brought this question in advance of the question of representation. His chief object was to call the attention of the Convention to the subject, so that they might not be taken by surprise if he should vote for the proposition of the gentleman from Washington county. After doing so should move to reconsider it.

[The Chairman's hammer fell—the gentleman's five minutes having expired]

Mr. JOHNSON said that he would withdraw his proposition for the present, as he would like to have consultation.

Mr. MERRICK offered, as a substitute for the amendment of Mr. FIERY, the following:

“The House of Delegates shall consist of members to be apportioned to the several counties of the State and the city of Baltimore, according to the following rule, that is to say: Each of said counties and the city aforesaid, shall elect one delegate for every four thousand souls it may contain up to twenty thousand, and for any excess in the number of population in any of said counties or in the city of Baltimore above twenty thousand, and of not less than eight thousand, there shall be allowed to each county or city having such excess one additional delegate; and for any excess of population in any of the counties or city aforesaid, above twenty-eight thousand and of not less than sixteen thousand, one other additional delegate shall be allowed to each of the counties or to the city having such excess; and so on, duplicating the number of souls required to be in excess, above the last number upon which an additional delegate was allowed, for the allowance of each further additional delegate, to which by such duplicating ratio, any of the counties or the city of Baltimore, may be entitled for the whole number of its population; provided that no county shall have less than three delegates, nor shall any county or city have more than ten delegates. By which rule, and until otherwise apportioned by the legislature as hereinafter provided, the number of delegates from each of the counties and the city of Baltimore, shall be as follows: Allegany shall elect five; Anne Arundel shall elect five; Howard three; Baltimore county six; Carroll five; Caroline three; Calvert three; Cecil four; Charles four; Dorchester four; Frederick six; Harford four; Kent three; Montgomery four; Prince George's five; Queen Anne's three; Saint Mary's three; Somerset five; Talbot three; Washington six; Worcester four, and the city of Baltimore ten. And the legislature shall in future at their first regular session after the authoritative promulgation of each decennial census of the people of the United States, reapportion the representatives in the House of Delegates according to the above rules, and the then state of the population in the several counties and the city of Baltimore.”

Mr. MERRICK begged gentlemen to reflect upon the great and striking injustice which would be done to the slaveholding counties of the State, by apportioning representation in the Legislature according to federal numbers. Every one knew that mode of apportioning representation in the Congress of the United States was the result of compromise, it being provided in that government, that *taxation* and *representation* should be apportioned equally, consequently the slaveholding States received as a compensation for the non enumeration of a portion of their slaves in the apportionment of representatives, an *examp-*